

# AVOCA

Avoca Caustic Pencil 95% w/w Cutaneous Stick  
Avoca Wart & Verruca Treatment 95% w/w Cutaneous Stick  
Avoca Caustic Applicator 95% w/w Cutaneous Stick  
Avoca Caustic Applicator 75% w/w Cutaneous Stick  
Avoca Caustic Pencil 40% w/w Cutaneous Stick  
silver nitrate



## Read all of this leaflet carefully because it contains important information for you.

This medicine is available without prescription. However, you still need to use it carefully to get the best results from it.

- Keep this leaflet. You may need to read it again.
- This medicine is for your use only. It must not be shared with others.
- Ask your pharmacist if you need more information or advice.
- You must contact a doctor if your symptoms worsen or do not improve after 3 applications for a wart or 6 applications for a verruca.
- If any of the side effects gets serious, or if you notice any side effects not listed in this leaflet, please tell your nurse, doctor or pharmacist.

### In this leaflet:

1. What Avoca is and what it is used for
2. Before you use Avoca
3. How to use Avoca
4. Possible side effects
5. How to store Avoca
6. Further information

## 1. What Avoca is and what it is used for

The name of your medicine is Avoca. It is available in the following packs:

Avoca Caustic Pencil 95% w/w  
Avoca Wart & Verruca Treatment 95% w/w  
Avoca Caustic Applicator 95% w/w  
Avoca Caustic Applicator 75% w/w  
Avoca Caustic Pencil 40% w/w

All packs are called Avoca in this leaflet. Avoca contains a medicine called silver nitrate.

Avoca is used for **removing warts** including **verrucae** and **excess tissue**, for example tissue that forms during the healing process of wounds.

Avoca works by destroying tissue on the surface layers of warts and verrucae.

## 2. Before you use Avoca

### Do not use this medicine and tell your doctor if:

You are **allergic** (hypersensitive) to silver nitrate or any of the other ingredients of Avoca (listed in Section 6).

### Do not use:

- Near the eyes
- On genital warts
- On sensitive areas of your body

Do not use this medicine if any of the above applies to you.

If you are not sure, talk to your nurse, doctor or pharmacist before using Avoca.

## Take special care with Avoca

Avoca is caustic (can burn) and can cause staining. You should not use Avoca over bathroom or kitchen fittings or carpets.

## Pregnancy and breast-feeding

Talk to your doctor, nurse or pharmacist before using this medicine if:

- You are pregnant, might become pregnant or think you may be pregnant
- You are breast-feeding or planning to breast feed

Ask your doctor, nurse or pharmacist for advice before taking any medicine.

## 3. How to use Avoca

Always use Avoca exactly as your doctor, nurse or pharmacist has told you. You should check with your doctor, nurse, or pharmacist if you are not sure.

This medicine is for you only. Do not share it with others.

### The usual dose of Avoca is:

- 3 applications for a wart
- 6 applications for a verruca.

If your symptoms carry on or do not improve after this number of applications, you should talk to your doctor or pharmacist.

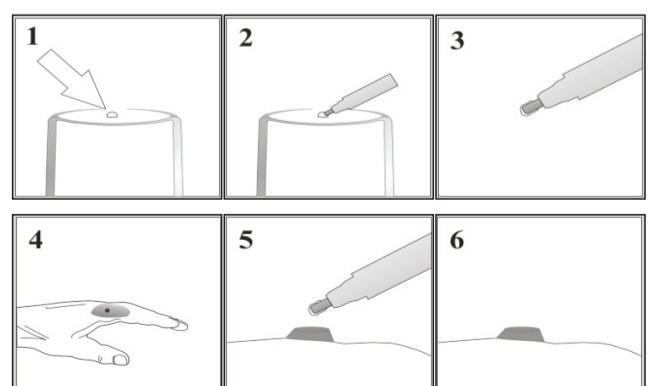
You should only apply Avoca to affected skin.

### You will need the following before you start:

- A small amount of clean water such as tap water. Do not use saline solution or water known to contain salt or chlorides
- A clean non-absorbent surface such as an upturned drinking glass or steel cup
- A paper tissue
- Petroleum jelly
- Newspaper or similar to protect from drops of water containing silver nitrate
- A firm surface to work on such as a table. Spread the newspaper over the table. Do not use your medicine over bathroom or kitchen fittings or carpets. Most surfaces touched by silver nitrate dissolved in water will be stained black or grey.

### How to apply your medicine:

1. Put a single drop of clean water on a non-absorbent surface such as an upturned drinking glass or steel cup (see Figure 1)
2. Dip the tip in the drop of water. Gently move the tip in the water for a minute (see Figure 2)
3. The tip is now coated in water containing silver nitrate (see Figure 3)
4. Do not allow the water or tip to touch healthy skin or tissue
5. Protect healthy skin around the area to be treated with a thin layer of petroleum jelly (see Figure 4)
6. Roll the tip on the area to be treated to transfer water from the tip to the surface of the area (see Figure 5)
7. Allow the treated area to dry before contact with any other surface (see Figure 6)
8. Using a paper tissue, dry the tip of the pencil and the non-absorbent surface. Dispose of the paper tissue
9. Over 24 hours and following exposure to light, any surface touched by the water or wet tip will become stained black
10. After 24 hours, the black surface of the treated skin should be filed away with a coarse nail buffer or fine emery board. Treated tissue will fall away
11. The remaining wart/verruca should be treated again.



Turn over

## If you apply more Avoca than you should, or if you swallow any Avoca

If you use more Avoca than you should or you swallow it by accident, tell a doctor or go to a hospital casualty department straight away.

Take the medicine pack with you. This is so the doctor knows what you have used. The following effects may happen: burning or stinging.

If swallowed you may also have pain in the mouth, produce more saliva, diarrhoea, feeling sick, being sick (vomit may be stained black), loss of consciousness or fits.

## If you forget to use Avoca

If you forget to apply a dose, apply it as soon as you remember. However, if it is nearly time for the next dose, skip the missed application.

Do not apply a double dose to make up for a forgotten application.

## 4. Possible side effects

Like all medicines, Avoca can cause side effects, although not everybody gets them.

### Stop using Avoca and see a doctor or go to a hospital straight away if:

- You have an allergic reaction. The signs may include: a rash, swallowing or breathing problems, swelling of your lips, face, throat or tongue.

### Tell a doctor straight away if you notice any of the following serious side effects:

- You have headache, weakness, feeling sick or being sick, diarrhoea, rapid heart beat, breathlessness, blue skin colouration and loss of consciousness.

These could be signs of a blood disorder.

### Tell your doctor as soon as possible if you have any of the following side-effects:

- Bluish-black colouration of the skin after a course of treatment.

Talk to your doctor, nurse or pharmacist if any of the side effects gets serious or lasts longer than a few days, or if you notice any side effects not listed in this leaflet.

## 5. How to store Avoca

- Keep out of the reach and sight of children.
- Do not use Avoca after the expiry date which is stated on the label and carton after EXP. The expiry date refers to the last day of that month.
- Store protected from light and moisture.
- Medicines should not be disposed of via wastewater or household waste. Ask your pharmacist how to dispose of medicines no longer required. These measures will help to protect the environment.

## 6. Further Information

### What Avoca contains

- Avoca Caustic Pencil 95% w/w – contains 95% w/w silver nitrate as the active ingredient
- Avoca Wart & Verruca Treatment 95% w/w – contains 95% w/w silver nitrate as the active ingredient
- Avoca Caustic Applicator 95% w/w – contains 95% w/w silver nitrate as the active ingredient
- Avoca Caustic Applicator 75 % w/w – contains 75% w/w silver nitrate as the active ingredient
- Avoca Caustic Pencil 40% w/w – contains 40% w/w silver nitrate as the active ingredient
- The other ingredient is potassium nitrate

## What Avoca looks like and contents of the pack

- Avoca Caustic Pencil 95% w/w is available in a carton containing a blue plastic container and push-on cap.
- Avoca Wart & Verruca Treatment 95% w/w is available in a carton containing a blue plastic container and push-on cap. It is supplied with 1 emery file.
- Avoca Caustic Applicator 95% w/w is available in a carton containing 100 applicators. Each applicator is a 15cm long flexible blue plastic handle with a treated tip and wrapped in black plastic.
- Avoca Caustic Applicator 75 % w/w is available in a carton containing either 50 or 100 applicators. Each applicator is a 15cm long flexible yellow plastic handle with a treated tip and wrapped in black plastic.
- Avoca Caustic Pencil 40% w/w is available in a carton containing a red plastic container and push-on cap.

## Marketing Authorisation Holder

Bray Group Limited  
1 Regal Way, Faringdon, Oxfordshire SN7 7BX  
Telephone +44 (0) 1367 240 736  
Email [info@bray-healthcare.com](mailto:info@bray-healthcare.com)

## Manufacturer

Bray Group Limited  
1 Regal Way, Faringdon, Oxfordshire SN7 7BX.

This leaflet does not contain all the information about your medicine. If you have any questions or are not sure about anything, ask your nurse, doctor or pharmacist.

This leaflet was last revised in June 2010.

## Further Information on Warts and Verrucas

### Warts & Verrucas

Warts are small growths on the skin and usually harmless. There are different types of wart. Common warts are round with a rough surface and usually the same colour as skin or brown. Plane or flat warts are smaller and flatter than common warts and tend to occur on the face and hands.

Warts situated on the soles of the foot or around the toes are plantar warts or verruca. A verruca starts as a tiny pink area speckled with black dots but can become dark with a rough crumbly layer of skin with a 'pepper pot' appearance. Verrucas vary in size and can be as big as half an inch (1.25cm). They can also be grouped together or spread around the foot.

Genital warts are pink in colour and often have a cauliflower appearance.

Small warts can mass together to form a mosaic wart.

### Causes

All warts are caused by infection with the human papilloma virus (HPV). This virus is mildly contagious and can be passed on by direct contact with infected surfaces and towels.

HPV thrives in damp communal areas such as swimming pools and showers and so warts and verrucas are more common in children and young adults.

Over time you develop resistance to the virus if you had warts as a child. Broken skin can increase the risk of picking up the virus.

### Symptoms

Warts may be itchy and unsightly. Verrucas can be very painful to walk on. They are easily confused with **corns** and calluses but they are usually more painful when pinched and may appear anywhere on the foot.